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AUTHOR Woodrick, William E.; Wolfe, Vicki L., Ed.  
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## ABSTRACT

This booklet offers profiles of 55 successful individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The profiles identify how long the person has had a hearing impairment and the cause, their educational background, and the field in which they are employed. The profiles describe successful role models and are designed to help in career exploration for students with hearing impairments in school, rehabilitation, and community settings. The profiles can also be incorporated into the reading curriculum and can lead to group discussions concerning college and career options for young people who are deaf and hard of hearing. An introduction to the profiles suggests that students who have a clearly defined career goal are more likely to complete postsecondary education, and advises students to select a postsecondary institution which provides support services and special accommodations. (SW)

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# The PEC

(Postsecondary Education Consortium)

# Salutes Success



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**H**eather Whitestone, who was crowned Miss America on September 18, 1994, lost her hearing when she was 18 months old. She learned quickly that overcoming the challenges in life would require courage and conviction.

Heather is an accounting major at Jacksonville State University. As Miss America 1995, she travels 20,000 miles a month encouraging others to reach for their goals. Due to her responsibilities as Miss America, she is taking a break from school. When she returns to Jacksonville State to complete her education, she will take with her \$35,000 in scholarships from the Miss American Pageant. In addition, the Miss America Organization, along with one of its corporate partners, Waterford Crystal, presented a \$25,000 scholarship to Jacksonville State in her honor.

Through hard work and perseverance, Heather was able to achieve her dream. You can read her story on page 58 of this booklet.

# The PEC (Postsecondary Education Consortium)

## Salutes Success

BY WILLIAM E. WOODRICK, DIRECTOR  
VICKI L. WOLFE, EDITOR

*The purpose of this publication is to encourage students  
who are deaf or hard of hearing  
to explore postsecondary educational options  
in planning their career goals.*

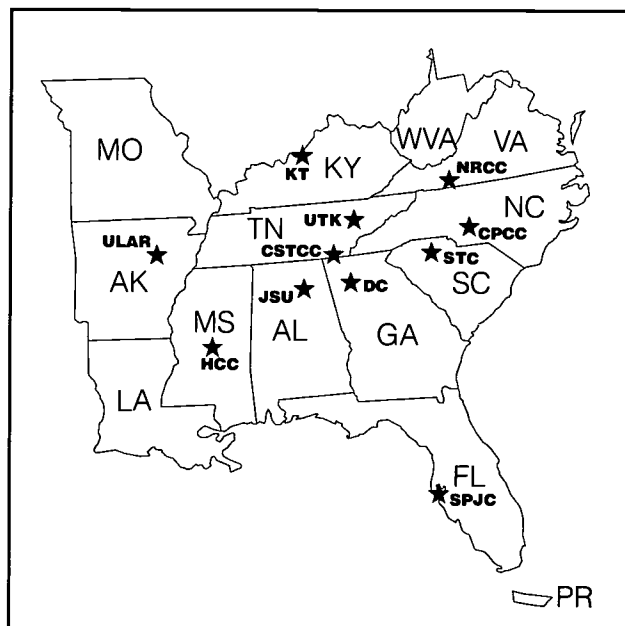
### WHAT IS PEC?

**T**he Postsecondary Education Consortium (PEC) is a project sponsored by the federal government to enhance postsecondary educational opportunities for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. It includes 10 affiliate programs at universities, community colleges, and technical schools with special programs designed to accommodate the needs of deaf and hard of hearing students. Although all public institutions are required by law to provide access to students with a hearing loss, PEC affiliate institutions have qualified, full-time staff available to meet the variety of educational needs of deaf and hard of hearing students.

In addition to interpreting, tutoring, and note taking, they provide accommodations such as developmental studies, counseling, and career planning designed to meet the specific needs related to the age of onset and degree of hearing loss. The programs have equipment such as assistive listening devices, TTY's, emergency alerting devices, and other technical resources to ensure accessibility for all deaf and hard of hearing students. Each

institution provides opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing students to socialize with each other as well as with the general student body. Students are also encouraged to participate in student activities as well as leadership training retreats and PEC's biennial conference.

Each institution's faculty, staff and administrators are actively involved in meeting the special learning needs of many



deaf and hard of hearing students. A continuing program of staff development is provided to enhance services for students. This may include on-campus activities, workshops on specific topics or areas of concern, and the PEC biennial conference. The affiliate institutions are regularly reviewed to assure that services of the highest quality are provided to deaf and hard of hearing students.

## **PEC MISSION**

PEC is a consortium of community-based postsecondary programs serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The mission of the consortium is to enhance learning environments that empower these individuals. PEC promotes quality programs and services through innovative practices and outreach.

## **WHY DO STUDENTS PREFER PEC INSTITUTIONS?**

Although some students choose a particular institution because it is located near home, many students travel across the United States to attend a PEC affiliate institution. The students frequently select the school because of the quality of support services offered and the major areas of study available. Some prefer the institutions because of the opportunity to interact with and gain support from other students with similar backgrounds.

Each of the 10 PEC affiliate institutions is unique. Several of the institutions offer two-year associate degrees while others focus on certificate programs that can be completed within a year. Some offer four-year bachelor's degree programs and graduate studies. They all provide special assistance for students

who need to improve their skills before entering a major course of study. A number of students pursue general education courses which can be transferred to another college. Most of the affiliate institutions also offer continuing education opportunities. Therefore, students can select from a diverse range of programs when planning individual educational objectives.

## **WHO ARE THE PEC STUDENTS?**

During the 1993-1994 academic school year there were approximately 350 students enrolled in PEC affiliate institutions. The number of deaf and hard of hearing students varies from one institution to another. Over half of the students were female. About one third of the students attended college part-time, but most were full-time students. Although the majority of students lost their hearing during early childhood, about 12% of the students lost their hearing later in life. Assistive listening devices were used by 62% of the students. About 57% of the students describe themselves as "deaf" while the remainder indicated they were "hard of hearing." Approximately 40% of the students attended a state residential school for the deaf at least part of the time; however, most attended local public schools. The students enrolled in PEC affiliate institutions range from profoundly deaf to those with mild to moderate hearing losses.

## **WHY PUBLISH THE PEC SALUTES SUCCESS?**

The Postsecondary Education Consortium is proud of the success achieved by students and alumni. Based upon their success, the affiliate institutions continue to improve services for deaf and hard of hearing students each year. More deaf and hard of

hearing individuals are encouraged to explore postsecondary educational opportunities at the PEC affiliate institutions. A wide range of programs is available to meet the individual learning needs of students with a hearing loss. Individuals are encouraged to explore success stories of PEC students, as well as their personal interests and goals.

People interested in applying to a PEC institution should have a good understanding of their individual learning needs and choose an appropriate career goal. They should contact the individual institutions to receive more information about their programs of study and the accommodations available to meet their specific learning needs. The purpose of this book is to present some examples of successful students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

History suggests two factors crucial for the successful employment of deaf and hard of hearing students. First, students who have a clearly defined career goal are more likely to complete their postsecondary program of study. Second, those students who complete their certificate or degree find employment and advance in their careers more quickly. Therefore, selecting a postsecondary program appropriate to an individual's needs and career objective is extremely important. Although most colleges will provide access to educational opportunities, many students need *special accommodations* often not readily available in local programs.

These success stories can give the reader some ideas about how other deaf and hard of hearing individuals have reached their career goals. Each of the students featured in this book was selected because of his or her personal accomplishments. The stories have been edited to accommodate individuals with limited reading comprehension. PEC urges other deaf and hard of hearing individuals to explore their own career goals and select an institution that provides support services to

maximize their potential for success.

Readers should contact the individual institutions for more information about courses of study, tuition costs, housing arrangements, and admission procedures.

*The PEC Salutes Graduates* was published during the spring of 1993 and disseminated to both educational and rehabilitation programs. Although the PEC region includes only 13 southeastern states and Puerto Rico, the information was considered to be beneficial for all deaf and hard of hearing persons. Therefore, it was distributed throughout the country.

During the fall of 1994, a survey was developed to determine the significance of the book and its usefulness in career planning. Persons responding to the survey included educators, rehabilitation specialists, counselors, and representatives from community service agencies. Although a more detailed analysis of the responses is being compiled, an overwhelming number indicated the information was extremely useful for individuals and their families in the exploration of career options. It provided some adult role models for students as well as information for families and counselors about options available.

One rehabilitation counselor commented that the book often led to discussions with his clients concerning the wide variety of career options available to deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Another counselor remarked that the book was useful in career counseling and exploring training options as well as providing successful deaf role models.

Teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students from both public and residential schools responded to the survey. Several public high school teachers incorporated the book into the reading curriculum through assigned reading with accompanying question and answer worksheets. These assignments led to group discussions



concerning career options for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Another teacher encouraged students to take the books home and discuss the college and career options with their parents.

One teacher of deaf students from a residential setting reported using the stories to encourage students to solicit information from a variety of colleges across the nation. Others used the stories in conjunction with the local employment office to explore the job market and pay level of similar employment in their local areas.

Teachers felt that the book could be used with younger deaf and hard of hearing students. Although the students may be unable to read the stories, the pictures provide positive role models for the children to view and discuss with their parents and teachers.

Several community centers distributed *The PEC Salutes Graduates* to adults in the community. It encouraged them to seek continuing education opportunities. In some instances, the readers began to explore new career opportunities.

*The College & Career Programs For Deaf Students* publication provides information about other programs across the nation which serve deaf and hard of hearing students. The ninth edition (1995) can be ordered by contacting Gallaudet University at the following address:

CENTER FOR  
ASSESSMENT &  
DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES  
Gallaudet University  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
202-651-5575 (Voice or TDD)  
202- 651-5746 (fax)

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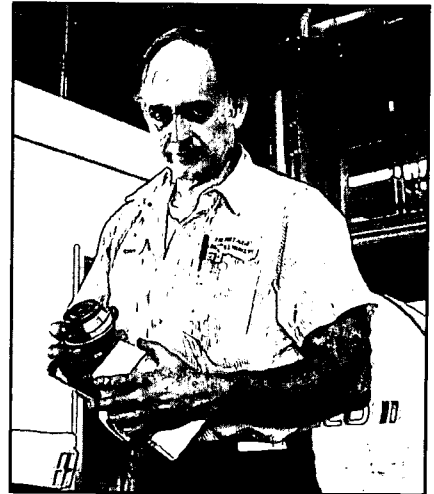
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## Tony Alessi Spartanburg Technical College

Tony Alessi lives in Greenville, South Carolina. He was born deaf. He attended the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind and graduated in 1958.

Tony has worked for the Heritage Lincoln-Mercury car dealership for 34 years. He is an automobile technician. Tony's employer sent him to Spartanburg Technical College (STC) for more training. He is glad the Cooperative Program provided him with an interpreter. He appreciates it very much.

Tony's wife's name is Daisy. She works as a vocational rehabilitation counselor. Tony enjoys exercising and walking. His advice to students is to study hard in college or trade school. It's up to you to learn more about different vocations.



*It's up to you to learn  
more about different  
vocations.*



## Robert Armstrong Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

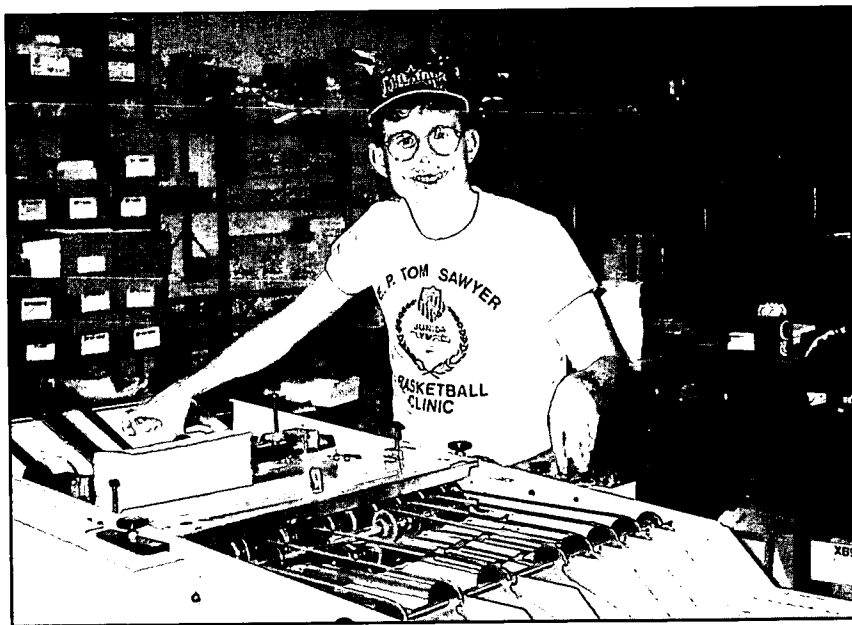
Robert Armstrong lives in Louisville, Kentucky. He became deaf at eleven months of age from a high fever. He attended Louisville Oral School for the Deaf for three years and then the Kentucky School for the Deaf for 13 years. He attended Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech) from 1988 until 1992. He majored in art.

A placement specialist from Kentucky Tech helped Robert find a job. He works at Business Cards Today in Louisville, Kentucky. Robert is a slitter and cutter. He hopes to be able to run the printing press in the future.

In his free time Robert likes to line dance. He won an award for dancing. He likes to teach people to line dance.

Robert wants to tell all deaf students to go to school. He thinks that it is important. Robert says that it is hard to get a job without training.

*Robert hopes to be able to run the printing press in the future.*



## Randy Atkins DeKalb College

Randy Atkins lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia. He was born deaf. Randy attended Atlanta Area School for the Deaf from kindergarten to 8th grade. He then attended and graduated from Parkview High School. This is a hearing school with a deaf program.

Randy started DeKalb College in 1992 and is a part-time student. He is studying to be an electrician. Randy has learned a lot at DeKalb College. They help him take the classes he needs at the right time. He wanted to go to DeKalb College because it is a two year college. It has a good program and is close to his home.

Randy works for Parkview High School. He helps keep the school clean. He picks up trash and uses a blower to blow dirt, dust, and leaves off the sidewalks. Randy's teacher helped him find this job.

Randy likes to spend time with his girlfriend. He also likes karate class, watching movies, playing basketball, going to the mall, and visiting with friends. In the future, Randy wants to be a good electrician with his own company. He wants to have a nice home and a wonderful family. Randy drives a red 1986 Camaro that he bought with money from his job.

Randy wants to encourage high school deaf students to never give up and follow their dreams. If students give enough time and work, it can all happen for them.



*He also likes karate class, watching movies, playing basketball, going to the mall, and spending time with friends.*

## Sherry Bass Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

*Sherry is a fast typist. She can type 100 words per minute.*



Sherry Bass lives in Louisville, Kentucky. She was born deaf. Sherry was in a mainstreamed program for one year at Seneca High School. Then she went to Manual High School for two years. They had self-contained classrooms. At Mill Creek Vocational School, she studied business and office/accounting. From 1988 to 1989 she went to Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech). Sherry went back to KY-Tech in 1993 as a part-time student. She is studying business and office/accounting.

The cooperative education office at KY-Tech told Sherry about a job with the United Parcel Service (UPS). Sherry got the job. She feels very lucky to work for UPS. She is a data processing and payroll clerk. At work she enters data into the computer.

Sherry likes KY-Tech. They have other deaf students to socialize with. KY-Tech has good interpreters and a business and office/accounting program.

In high school, she was in the Chess Club. She won two awards. One was for chess and the other was for perfect attendance. Sherry also worked for the post office. She won a perfect attendance award there.

Sherry is a fast typist. She can type 100 words per minute. Sherry is good at accounting. Accounting helps her understand payroll.

Sherry likes exercising, shopping, watching soap operas, visiting family and friends, traveling, and reading magazines. She drives a 1989 black Chevrolet Corsica. Sherry likes her car.

Sherry plans to marry a man and move to North Carolina. She will go to college in North Carolina.

Sherry tells students to go to college or vocational school. It is important to go to school. If you go to school you can get a good job and make a lot of money.

## Douglas H. Brewer Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus



Douglas H. Brewer was born deaf. He lives in Scottsburg, Indiana. He went to three different elementary schools. His family moved often. He graduated from the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (M.S.S.D.) in Washington, D. C.

Douglas attended Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech) from

1993 to 1994. He studied auto body repair. Douglas was a full-time student. Douglas chose auto body repair because he likes to work on cars. KY-Tech helped him with interpreters. The interpreters were very good.

The career/job placement specialist at KY-Tech helped Douglas find a job. He has a job at Auto Crafters in Louisville, Kentucky. Douglas is an auto body technician. His job is detailing, mudding, sanding, and painting cars.

Douglas' family is very supportive. His family loves cars. Douglas works long hours. He even works on weekends. He does not have much time to do other things. Douglas enjoys attending auto car shows, watching football games, and talking with friends. He drives a red 1985 Camaro that he painted himself. In the future, Douglas hopes to own a race car.

Douglas has advice for other deaf students. He tells students to always follow your interests. Do whatever makes you happy; however, use judgement. Douglas also says to go to school and learn more about your job. Then you can be better at your job.

*Douglas has advice for other deaf students. He tells students to always follow your interests.*

## Barbara Lafon Caldwell New River Community College



*There will be easy times as well as hard times. Hard times make you a stronger person.*

Barbara Caldwell lives in Newport, Virginia. She has Ménière's disease. This disease caused problems with her hearing. She started having difficulty hearing at age fifty-five. Barbara uses an FM system to help her hear better.

Barbara asked the Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services for help. They advised her to attend college. Barbara attended New River Community College (NRCC). She received a certificate in community and human services. Barbara likes NRCC school because it has a great program for the deaf and hard of hearing students. The staff at NRCC are very helpful. Barbara feels that God has blessed her.

Barbara likes working with teenagers and the elderly in the community. She likes caring for the sick. Barbara enjoys working on her family genealogy and making crafts. She also enjoys spending time with friends from church, her sons, and other family members. In the future, Barbara wants to work with mentally challenged people.

Barbara tells students to get a good education by going to college or technical school. There will be easy times as well as hard times. Hard times make you a stronger person. Don't be afraid to try new things.

## Steven Campbell Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

Steven Campbell lives in Louisville, Kentucky. He was born deaf. He attended a public school. In 1982 he went to the Kentucky School for the Deaf. After graduation, he attended Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech) from 1988 to 1991. Steven majored in auto body repair at Kentucky Tech.

A placement specialist helped Steven get a job. He works for Business Cards Today in Louisville, Kentucky. He operates a slitter machine and also works in packaging and invoicing. Steven would like to continue working for this company and learn to operate the printing press.

Steven encourages deaf students to go to school because he thinks that it is important. He says that KY-Tech offers wonderful interpreting services.



*He operates a slitter machine and also works in packaging and invoicing.*



## Robert Chain Hinds Community College

Robert Chain lives in Brandon, Mississippi. He was born deaf. Robert went to the Mississippi School for the Deaf.

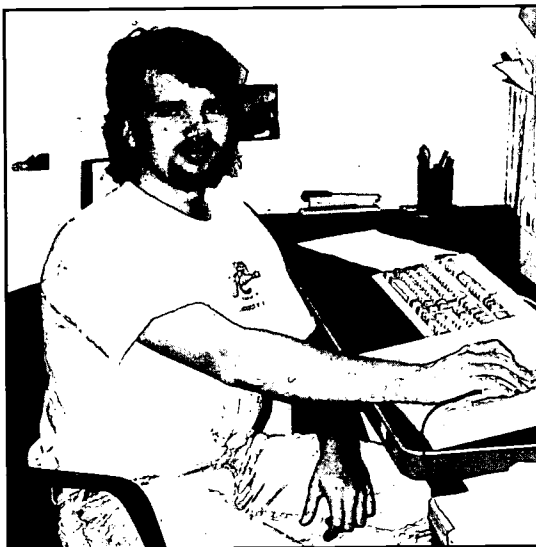
Robert went to Hinds Community College (HCC) from 1991 to 1994. He studied drafting and design technology. He was a full-time student. Robert was vice-president of the Deaf Club and a member of the Home Builders Club.

Robert liked HCC because they had great teachers and activities. His grades and school activities gave him confidence. He was able to succeed and learn from his mistakes.

A person from the United States Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experimental Station called Mr. Meador who is Robert's teacher. They wanted a good student to work for them. Mr. Meador told them that Robert was a good student. Robert was hired for the position. He is a contract drafter.

Robert likes collecting comics, customizing his truck, and drawing. Robert married his high school sweetheart on October 15, 1994.

In the future, Robert plans to design his dream



home. He will have his dream home built. He wants to be an architect for a large company.

Robert tells students to be responsible and study hard. Students should be nice to their teachers and get involved in activities.

*Robert liked HCC because they had great teachers and activities.*



## Allen R. Conner St. Petersburg Junior College

Allen Conner lives in Clearwater, Florida. He was born deaf. Allen was born and grew up in Rochester, New York. He graduated from Rochester School for the Deaf in 1987.

Allen works part-time at Pizza Hut. He cooks, cleans, and delivers pizzas.

Allen is a full-time student at St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC). This is his first year in college. He plans to graduate from SPJC with an Associate of Arts degree in education. Then Allen wants to transfer to a four year university. He wants to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education. In the future, Allen would like to become a high school history teacher. He wants to teach in either a deaf or mainstreamed school. Allen studied and liked history at Rochester School for the Deaf. His history teacher was very interesting. Allen's father likes history also.

Allen likes the classes at SPJC. He thinks the teachers are great and the support services for the deaf are wonderful.

Allen likes reading newspapers and magazines. He also likes watching television, especially the news. Allen likes playing volleyball, basketball, and football. He enjoys visiting with friends, camping, sailing, and traveling. Allen drives a 1989 blue Chevy S-10 truck.

Allen wants to be independent. He tells students to finish school and get a degree. Students must decide what job they like and work hard to get it. Don't be afraid of meeting hearing people in the work place; you can teach them about deaf culture.



*Don't be afraid of meeting hearing people in the work place; you can teach them about deaf culture.*

## Teri Cook Chattanooga State Technical Community College

Teri Cook lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She was born deaf. Teri went to the Tennessee School for the Deaf until 1977. Then she went to the Kentucky School for the Deaf. She graduated in 1983.

Teri went to college at Chattanooga State Technical Community College (CSTCC). She enrolled in art classes at the Chattanooga State Print Shop. Teri started working at the print shop in 1987 and is now working as a print clerk. Teri operates the letter folding machine. The machine collates, folds, and staples copies. She also prints the college catalog.

Teri liked CSTCC because it had a deaf program. She enjoyed having the interpreters, note takers and tutors. Teri advises deaf students to be serious about school, study hard and attend classes. If you are not serious about school, then try to get a good job.

*Teri advises deaf students to be serious about school, study hard and attend classes.*



## Patti Dillingham Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

Patti Dillingham lives in Clarksville, Indiana. She was born deaf. She is the only deaf person in her family. Patti attended the Indiana School for the Deaf.

After high school, Patti attended the Rochester Institute of Technology. Her major was photography. She worked in photography for seven years. Then she decided to move to Kentucky.

She attended Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech) as a full-time student. She studied desktop publishing. She was the Silent News editor at KY-Tech. She also helped to establish a deaf club. Patti thought the interpreters at KY-Tech were great. She chose desktop publishing because there are many jobs in this field. She is happy with her choice. She has a job now.

KY-Tech has a job placement specialist. She helped Patti find a job. Patti needed a job to help pay for school. Patti works at BCT Printing in Louisville, Kentucky. She is a graphic proofreader. She proofreads art work and business cards.

Patti likes to write newsletters for the deaf at KY-Tech. She hopes to help the deaf community with her desktop publishing skills. Patti is still involved with the Indiana School for the Deaf. Her graduating class just had a reunion. She helped with the reunion. She used the skills she learned at KY-Tech.

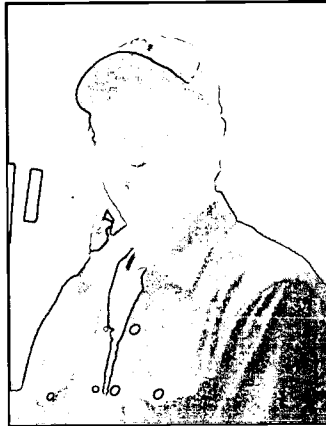
Patti has some advice for deaf high school students. Choose a school that you like. Get a job. A job will help you decide what you like and don't like. She also says to save your time and money.



*She hopes to help the deaf community with her desktop publishing skills.*

*Carl thinks STC is geared to student success.*

## Carl Duke Spartanburg Technical College



Carl Duke is from Easley, South Carolina. He lost his hearing at two months of age due to a childhood illness. He graduated from the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind in 1989. He went to Spartanburg Technical College (STC) in the fall of 1989. He planned to major in heating and air conditioning but changed his

mind. He chose the University Transfer Program. He hoped to transfer to the National Technical Institute of Deafness in Rochester, New York. He wanted to earn a degree in photography and graphic arts. Carl changed his mind again. Finally, he decided to enter the welding program and graduated in August of 1993.

Carl is now employed by BODE Industries in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He is a welder. Carl enjoys his job very much.

Carl thinks STC is geared to student success. He liked STC because they had wonderful interpreters.

He urges deaf students to keep up with your classwork, do your best, and if you have a problem don't give up.

## Roland Fairfax Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

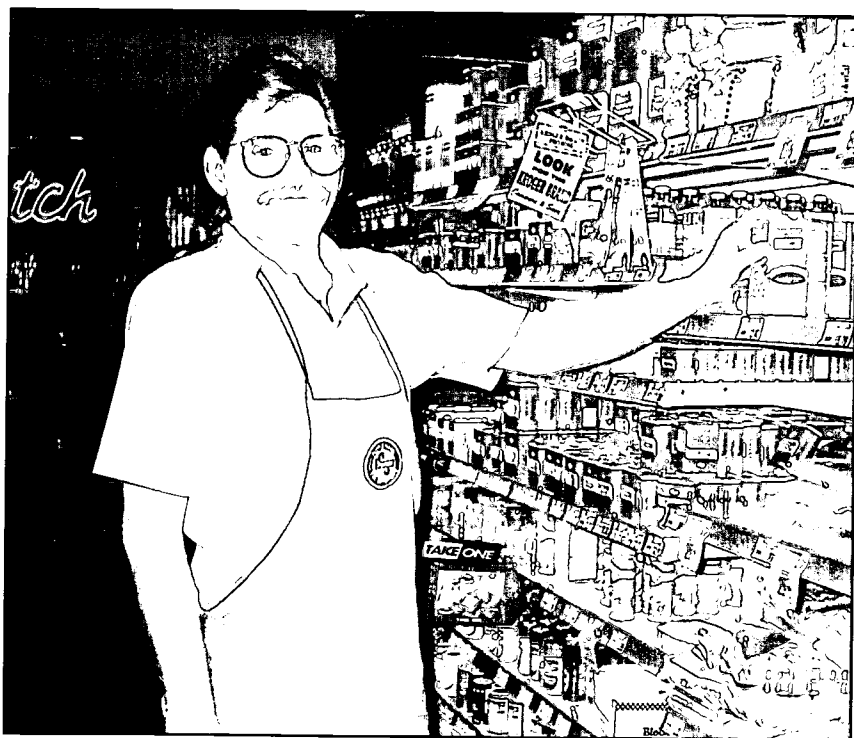
Roland Fairfax is from Louisville, Kentucky. He went to the Kendall School in Washington, D. C. Then he went to the Kentucky School for the Deaf. He was a full-time student at Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech) from 1989 through 1993. He majored in graphic arts. Roland hopes to open his own business someday.

A career placement specialist helped Roland find a job. He works in a Kroger store. He is in charge of shelf inventory and stock. He hopes to transfer to the Graphic Arts Department of Kroger.

His favorite thing about KY-Tech is the interpreters. He also likes the graphic arts program because it has a lot of up-to-date technology.

Roland wants to urge deaf students to attend college. He tells students it is impossible to find a job without training.

*Roland hopes to  
open his own  
business someday.*



*You need to go to school so you can get a job.*



## Tracey Forte Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

Tracey Forte is from Louisville, Kentucky. She was born deaf. She is the only deaf person in her family.

Tracey attended Dupont Manual High School from 1986 to 1991. She also went to Mill Creek Vocational Tech Center for commercial sewing classes.

After high school, Tracey attended Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech). She was a full-time student from 1991 to 1994. She attended classes to help her decide what she wanted to do. Tracey decided to study commercial foods.

At KY-Tech, Tracy would have lunch or cookouts with other deaf students. She would make something from food technology class. Tracey is a good cook. She loved being with other deaf students. They would help each other.

KY-Tech helped Tracey. They had good interpreters and instructors who knew how to sign. One teacher helped Tracey learn how to make bread. Tracey is very good at making bread.

Tracey also worked at KY-Tech. She helped serve food at lunch. This helped Tracey learn to work with customers. Tracey liked that.

KY-Tech has someone who helps people find jobs. She helped Tracey find a job.

Tracey works at Morrison's Cafeteria in Louisville, KY. She is a bread specialist. She bakes Mexican cornbread, cornbread sticks, muffins, garlic bread, and rolls. Tracey enjoys her job. She likes to cook.

Tracey likes to walk, visit with friends, and go to parties. She rides the bus to work. She is saving money to buy a car. In the future, Tracey wants to get married and have children. Tracey thinks it is important to get married and have children.

Tracey's advice to other deaf students is that if you want a future, you need training. You need to go to school so you can get a job.



## Fernando Garza Chattanooga State Technical Community College

Fernando Garza lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He became deaf when he was four years old. He went to an oral school. When he was ten years old he went to the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, Texas. He graduated in 1976.

Fernando started school at Chattanooga State Technical Community College (CSTCC) in 1987. He studied industrial electricity. He was a full-time student. He graduated in 1989. Fernando has an industrial electricity certificate.

Fernando likes CSTCC. They have counselors, interpreters, tutors and note takers. CSTCC is very helpful to deaf students.

Fernando's teacher helped him get a job. Fernando works for the Chattanooga Housing Authority. He has worked there for five years. Fernando got his journeyman license in May. He was promoted to journeyman electrician. Fernando does many different things at work. He installs conduit for wiring, re-wires, works on computer lines, phone lines, and troubleshoots.

Fernando is married and has a son and a daughter. Fernando loves to bird hunt, work on his house, and spend time with his family. He plans to learn more so he can get another promotion.

Fernando tells deaf students to believe in themselves. Study hard and know that a deaf person can do it.



*He plans to learn more so he can get another promotion.*



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*Since she had a 3.9 grade point average, she graduated with high honors.*

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## Randa Gruwell St. Petersburg Junior College

Randa Gruwell lives in Palm Harbor, Florida. She became deaf as an adult (age 19) when she contracted a virus. In 1988, she received a cochlear implant; it works great for her. Randa attended Prealpina Institute in Vevey, Switzerland from the first through eighth grade. Then she moved to Huntington, New York and graduated from high school.

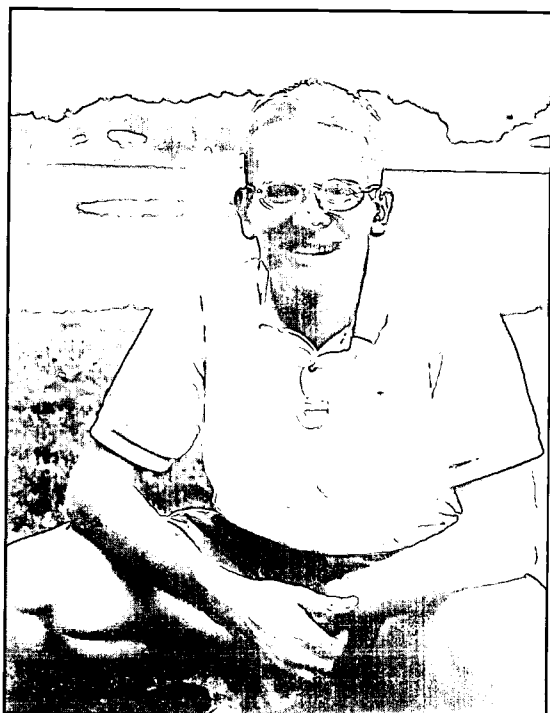
Randa took classes at Abilities of Florida. They provide job training for disabled people. Abilities of Florida helped Randa find a job at Raymond James Financial of St. Petersburg, Florida. Her job title is internal auditor. An auditor checks the financial records for large businesses.

Randa was a full-time student studying accounting at SPJC from 1982 to 1985. Randa tutored other deaf students in accounting. Randa graduated with an Associate of Arts degree. Since she had a 3.9 grade point average, she graduated with high honors.

In 1992, Randa wanted to go back to school. She entered the National Louis University in Tampa, Florida. Randa graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business management.



## Cameron R. House St. Petersburg Junior College



Cameron House lives in Clearwater, Florida. He was born hard of hearing. After having a high fever, he became deaf.

Cameron wanted to go to school. His mother wanted him to be mainstreamed. She wanted him to have the same education as hearing students.

The principal of the school said he would not let Cameron be mainstreamed. The principal said that Cameron would not be able to socialize with the hearing students.

Cameron did not go to public school. He went to the Alabama School for the Deaf and Blind. Cameron was a good student and his teacher said he was smart. Cameron's teacher suggested he should be sent to another school. His mother then enrolled him in the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf for three months. She mainstreamed him at Britt Elementary School. He made many hearing friends, but he could not sign. He was oral. He learned to use his residual hearing to help him lipread. Next, Cameron attended a program for the deaf and hard of hearing at Gwin Oaks Elementary School. He was a good student and skipped the fourth grade.

In high school, Cameron ran track and cross country for two years. He was also interested in cycling. Cameron played football until he was a junior. He was a

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*While at SPJC  
Cameron has  
received two awards  
for being an  
outstanding student.*

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defensive end. Cameron became very ill and had to quit playing football. The doctors found out he had Ménière's disease. Ménière's disease affects your balance. One day the Ménière's disease stopped bothering him.

Cameron got a job at Lou's Bike Shop in Seminole, Florida. He works as a bike mechanic. He repairs and custom builds bikes for customers.

Cameron attended DeKalb College in Clarkston, Georgia from 1987 to 1988. He was a full-time student majoring in acting and art. At DeKalb, he restarted the Deaf Club and renamed it A.C.E. (Ability to Communicate Effectively). Cameron had to leave school because he became sick again from the Ménière's disease.

Cameron is now attending St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) in Clearwater, Florida. He has completed an Associate of Science degree in graphic design. He is almost finished with his Associate of Arts degree in general business. While at SPJC Cameron has received two awards for being an outstanding student.

Cameron likes to take pictures. He has been published twice. One picture was in The Best of Tampa Bay and the second was in the PEC's *Perspectives*. Some of his pictures were shown at the University of Tennessee.

Cameron likes SPJC because the teachers in the classes are aware of the deaf students' needs. The interpreters are fabulous. The support staff is wonderful and very helpful with meeting all of the students' needs.

When Cameron has free time he loves to ride his bike. He is in training to ride in Europe in the future. He hopes to try out for the deaf world championship team in San Francisco, California. His goal is to someday become a European pro racer competing in the Tour De France, Paris Roubaix, and the Belgium Classics. He is looking for scholarships and sponsorships to help with the cost of training and competing.

Cameron advises deaf students to follow your dreams regardless of what people tell you! Choose a school that has the major you are interested in.

## Eddie Jasper Johnson Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

Eddie Johnson lives in Louisville, Kentucky. He was born deaf. Eddie's parents and sister are deaf. His brother is hearing. He also has cousins who are deaf. Eddie went to the Kentucky School for the Deaf from 1978-1990.

Eddie attends college at Kentucky Tech (KY-Tech). He studies automotive technology. He has a full-time co-op job. Co-op is when you get college credit for working. Eddie works at Goodyear in Louisville, Kentucky. He installs tires and fixes flats. Eddie also does oil changes, inspects brakes and front end alignments. He has a 15 point checklist to do. Eddie likes his job. He likes working on cars. His family likes working on cars. Eddie's grandfather owns a garage. Eddie likes to work with his grandfather. They work on cars and tractors. Eddie began working with his grandfather when he was a child. He learned a lot from his family. They taught him about cars.

Eddie's teacher is an automotive technology and placement specialist. His name is Bruce Edwards. Mr. Edwards told Eddie about the job at Goodyear. Eddie got the job.

Eddie likes KY-Tech. They have good auto technology classes. He learns a lot. The teachers use modern technology.

Eddie likes working on cars, going to the sports festival, and camping. He drives a 1987 Chevrolet Cavalier R.S.

Eddie tells students to go to a trade school or a college. Get a good education and don't sit at home. Don't wait for government checks. Go to a postsecondary school and get a good job.



*Get a good education  
and don't sit at  
home.*

## Lloyd Johnson Central Piedmont Community College



Lloyd Johnson became deaf at age seven from meningitis. He attended a public school until the third grade. After that, he transferred to the North Carolina School for the Deaf in Morganton, North Carolina. After one year, he moved to South Carolina. He graduated from

South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind in 1980. Lloyd was 17 years old.

Lloyd attended Gardner-Webb College in Boiling Springs, North Carolina for one semester. Then he attended Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). He left CPCC for one year to attend Gallaudet University. He attended CPCC for several years. Sometimes he was a part-time student and sometimes he was a full-time student. He enjoyed writing and participating in student publications at CPCC. He wrote short stories and poems for student publications.

Lloyd liked CPCC because it was close to home. He also liked CPCC because they had interpreters to help deaf students. He could attend college, work and live in the same town. The staff and instructors encouraged him. They challenged Lloyd in his educational pursuits. At CPCC Lloyd learned self-discipline, hard work and patience. One writing teacher encouraged Lloyd to write and work hard. He remembers her the most.

Lloyd works at Kenny Color Laboratory in

Charlotte, North Carolina as a photo lab technician. He operates a machine that prints color pictures and slides. He makes enlargements and maintains the slide printing machine. He can operate all machines and handle the overload when needed. Lloyd also makes sure the film is developed and printed properly. He works mostly with color slides and prints.

Lloyd wanted to do interesting work, and his friend told him about the job at Kenny Color Laboratory. He applied and got the job and has worked there for five years. Lloyd has learned a lot while working at the lab; he also learned how to do his job by watching others. He works alone most of the time; therefore he does not have to worry about communication with other workers. Lloyd is the first deaf person to work at the Kenny Color Laboratory. One staff member knows sign language and works as Lloyd's interpreter when needed.

Lloyd likes to read. He goes to the library on Sundays. He reads nonfiction books and Stephen King novels. He also likes creative writing and photography. He enjoys time to think and create. He likes to write short stories and poems. He also likes to travel to the beach and to the mountains. He has a 1988 white Mustang. He paid for it this year. He works hard at his job. Lloyd is proud of his car.

Lloyd is not married. He wants to settle down with someone special. In the future, he wants to go back to school and take more classes. He wants to be a newspaper reporter and photographer.

Lloyd thinks that you can do anything that you set your mind to. Never let your deafness get in the way. He tells students that learning is a lifelong experience. We are always learning.

Lloyd believes that to work as a photo lab technician you need to be mature, responsible, patient, and willing to learn new things. Being able to hear is not important. You must be able to work alone and work hard.

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*He says that learning is a lifelong experience. We are always learning.*

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*Marilyn continued to work hard and was promoted to housing manager of the Deaf Service Center.*



## Marilyn D. Knetzer St. Petersburg Junior College

Marilyn Knetzer lives in Tampa, Florida. She had many honors in school. She was captain of the cheerleading team. In Girl Scouts she was a Senior Cadet. She was also a dorm monitor.

Marilyn needed a job. A friend told her about a job at the Friends of the Deaf Service Center. Marilyn applied and got the job in 1980. She was a site manager. Then she was a finance director. Marilyn continued to work hard and was promoted to housing manager of the Deaf Service Center.

Marilyn is a part-time student at St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC). She is improving her skills in administration. Marilyn likes the program at SPJC. She feels they have wonderful interpreters, note takers and tutors.

Marilyn has four children and five grandchildren. She likes crafts, social activities, and political meetings.



## LaDonna Anderson Larsen New River Community College

LaDonna Larsen lives in Tazewell, Virginia. She became deaf when she was two years old. The doctors do not know why she became deaf. LaDonna went to Virginia School for the Deaf until the seventh grade. Then she went to Natural Bridge Public School in Virginia.

In high school LaDonna ran track and played basketball. LaDonna went to the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) in Washington, D.C. She liked attending the school and made many new friends. Many of her friends were from other countries. LaDonna modeled in fashion shows and won three years in a row. She was president of the sewing club. LaDonna was also a cheerleader for seven years. She graduated from MSSD in 1984.

LaDonna went to New River Community College (NRCC). She was a full-time student. She got a certificate in clerical studies and word processing in 1988. LaDonna liked word processing. It helped her with

*It is easier to get a  
job if you go to  
college and get a  
degree.*



*She is the first deaf person to work in the office of a commanding officer.*

her grammar skills. LaDonna was the first deaf cheerleader at NRCC. She was in two fashion shows at NRCC.

LaDonna liked going to NRCC. The support services were very useful to her, especially the interpreting, tutoring, and note taking. They had many clubs and activities. LaDonna felt comfortable at NRCC. The cooperative faculty and staff gave her very helpful advice.

LaDonna worked for four months as a secretary at the U.S. Army Material Command in Alexandria, Virginia. Next, she worked for the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C. in the Personnel Information Center. The Commanding Officer of the Naval Research Lab saw LaDonna signing with some friends. The officer wanted to learn sign language so he took classes at Gallaudet University. LaDonna was surprised when the officer learned sign language very quickly. Now, LaDonna is the commanding officer's personal secretary. She is the first deaf person to work in the office of a commanding officer. LaDonna has many job responsibilities including using IBM and Macintosh computers and working with graphics and E-Mail. She also works with the travel agency making appointments. She has worked there for two and a half years. She received a performance award from the Naval Research Lab.

LaDonna has a house that was built in 1904. She likes remodeling it and buying antiques for her home. LaDonna has two horses. One horse is a race horse and the other is a saddlebred horse. She enjoys going to horse races and betting on horses. LaDonna goes to the Rosecraft Race Track in Maryland.

LaDonna enjoys snow skiing. She drives a Nissan Pathfinder. LaDonna has been happily married for six years. Her husband's name is Bill. Bill is an audiologist. They have a four year old son. LaDonna is a mother and a housewife. She enjoys caring for her son. He will start school next year. In the future, LaDonna wants to go back to college.

LaDonna tells students to go to college and work hard. It is easier to get a job if you go to college and get a degree. You can make your goals happen!

## Irlanda Mayo St. Petersburg Junior College

Irlanda Mayo was born deaf. She went to a mainstream program in a public school. After high school, she went to St. Petersburg Junior college (SPJC). Irlanda was a full-time student from 1988-1990. She studied liberal arts and veterinary medicine. During college, she was a treasurer of the Deaf Club, helped others learn sign language, and acted in plays. She received the Excellent Role Model Award and was on the dean's list.

Irlanda liked SPJC because they had excellent interpreters, note takers, and tutors. The staff made her feel very comfortable. Irlanda made many new friends at SPJC. After two years, Irlanda transferred to the University of Tennessee. She stayed there for more than one year.

Irlanda needed a job so she called the Deaf Services Bureau. They helped her get a job working as a hotline administrative assistant in Miami, Florida. She gathers statistical information, evaluates employee's work, and attends workshops. She also works on a computer and collects information about agencies that help deaf people.

Irlanda likes canoeing, white-water rafting, and walking. She also likes spending time with her friends. In the future, Irlanda wants to go back to college and get a bachelor's degree in counseling. She would like to be a case worker in a mental health unit for the deaf.

Irlanda's advice to students is you can do anything. It doesn't matter if you are deaf. It is important to study hard in college so you can get a good job. Students need to be responsible and have respect for all people.



*During college, she was a treasurer of the Deaf Club, helped others learn sign language, and acted in plays.*

## Susan McCormick Hinds Community College



Susan McCormick is 25 years old. She lives in Long Beach, Mississippi. Her parents knew she was hearing impaired when she was 8 months old.

She went to public schools. She graduated from Biloxi High School in Mississippi.

*Her major was business technology. She chose this because she was interested in computers.*

Susan attended Hinds Community College (HCC) from 1987 to 1991. She was a full-time student. Her major was business technology. She chose this because she was interested in computers. Susan was a member of the Deaf Club, Alpha Beta Gamma, and Phi Beta Gamma.

Susan chose HCC because they had a deaf program, and it was close to home. The interpreters, note takers, and tutors were very helpful to Susan. She enjoyed being a member of the Deaf Club.

Now, Susan has a job. She works at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. She has worked there for three years. First, she was a data transcriber; then, she received a promotion to a computer programmer. She trained for her new position in California. Susan has several responsibilities such as programming computers, data entry, and printing from a Xerox laser printer. A vocational rehabilitation counselor helped Susan find her job.

Susan enjoys shopping, water skiing, being with friends and spending time with her two nieces. In the future, Susan wants to get married and have a family.

Susan's advice for deaf students is to join a Deaf Club, join other activities and study hard. She also thinks deaf students should meet and socialize with both hearing and deaf students.

## Geladin Mirzaiee Nazloo (Kadi) Central Piedmont Community College

Kadi Nazloo was born in Iran. When he was six years old, he contracted spinal meningitis which caused him to become deaf. He attended a school for the deaf in Tehran. The school used Iranian Sign Language and speech. Iranian Sign Language is "inward." Inward signing means that they touch the face and body more.

In 1979 Kadi and his family escaped from Iran. They wanted to live in America. They came to live with Kadi's aunt in Hollywood, California. Kadi likes living in America. He is fascinated by large airports and freeways.

Kadi's father got a job as a construction engineer in Charlotte, North Carolina. After moving to Charlotte, Kadi went to East Mecklenburg High School. The school had a mainstream program. Kadi was seventeen years old when he learned American Sign Language.

Kadi's teacher was Beverly Elwell. Ms. Elwell told Kadi about college. He decided to attend Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). He studied

*CPCC has a large international student population.*



mechanical drafting. His favorite class was computer assisted drafting (CAD).

Kadi likes CPCC. The school has excellent interpreters, counselors, and tutoring services. CPCC has a large international student population.

Kadi met Francie Pyle Nazloo at CPCC. He married Francie in 1989. They have two children. Kadi became an American citizen in May of 1991. He works as a mail handler for the U.S. Postal Service in Charlotte, North Carolina. Vocational Rehabilitation helped Kadi get his job. He started working in March of 1993. Kadi runs the machinery in the post office. The machines cancel stamps on letters.

Kadi enjoys repairing machines and working on cars. He also likes computer games and traveling with his family. Kadi attends the Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf. His advice to students is to stay in school because he feels education is important, and it will help you get a good job.

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*Kadi enjoys  
repairing machines  
and working on cars.  
He also likes  
computer games and  
traveling with his  
family.*

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## Paula Neal Central Piedmont Community College

Paula Neal lives in Concord, North Carolina. She was born deaf. Paula went to the North Carolina School for the Deaf from 1969-1984. After graduation she enrolled at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) for one year. Then she decided to get a job. Paula returned to CPCC in 1993 and graduated in May of 1994.

During college, Paula studied data entry operations while working part-time at Cultured Carolina Marble, Inc. This business is owned by her brother. After Paula graduated, she stayed at this company as an office clerk. Her job responsibilities are filing, invoicing, typing, updating accounting records, and working on a computer.

Paula is glad she attended CPCC. It was close to her home and had good interpreting and support services. There were many deaf students at the college. Paula's deaf friends advised her to go to CPCC because of the good programs. She participated in the Talking Hands Club (deaf students' club) and leadership training while attending college.

Paula enjoys family gatherings and watching her nephew play football. She attends Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord, North Carolina. Paula is the outreach director for deaf ministries. She likes meeting and socializing with other Christians. Paula often travels to different states to participate in the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf. Paula wants to go back to school to study computers and religion. She hopes to enter Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia during the fall of 1995.

In the future, Paula would like to get married and raise a family. She has a cat named Taby who is four and one-half years old. Her advice to students is education is important. Stay in school.



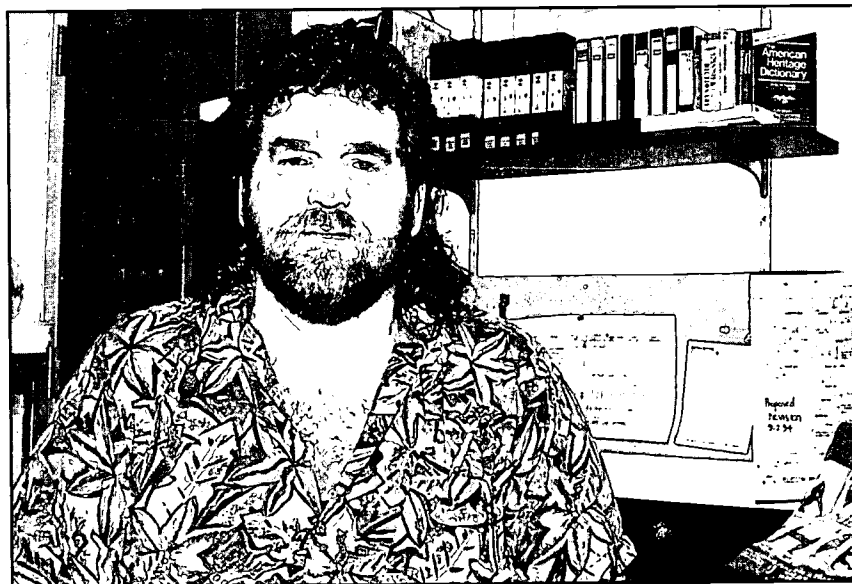
*Paula wants to go back to school to study computers and religion.*



## Thomas E. Nickerson St. Petersburg Junior College

Tom Nickerson lives in Tampa, Florida. He was born deaf. Tom went to the Alexander Graham Bell School for the Deaf when he was four years old. He did not have an interpreter. When he was 12 years old he went to a school for disabled students. He had a speech therapist. When he was 16 years old he went to Leto High School in Tampa, Florida. He did not have an interpreter or a note taker. He graduated in 1968.

In 1970, Tom started working for the Aetna Steel Fabricator Company in Tampa and Jacksonville, Florida. He did not have any experience for the job. In the past, the company did not hire deaf people. Tom thought he needed to hide his deafness. He pretended to be a foreigner because he couldn't speak well. After one week, his employer found out he was deaf. Fortunately, the company decided to let him stay because he was such a good worker. He worked his way up to better jobs in the company. He became a fitter, a welder, then a layout man. Next, he became a shop supervisor and plant manager. Twenty-seven people worked for Tom. These people were fitters, welders, layout, heavy equipment operators, overhead crane operators and draftspersons. He set up big contract jobs and



fabricated steel structures before deadlines. He made a profit for the company.

Tom decided to become a teacher for the deaf in public schools. Tom tells people that today the job market is hard. Computer programming and engineering jobs are hard to find. Deaf children need male role models who are deaf. Being a teacher is very challenging. It is good for deaf students to become teachers.

Tom is a full-time student at SPJC. He was on the president's honor list for three semesters for the highest grade point average. He also received an award for being an outstanding leader. He graduated in December 1994. Tom enjoyed going to SPJC. The college had outstanding interpreters and note takers. They helped him understand the lectures. Now, he is attending the University of South Florida. He will get a Bachelor of Arts degree in education. This will help him get a good job.

Tom is married and has two grown daughters and four grandchildren. He enjoys watching "World Championship Wrestling" on T.V. This helps him to relax. He also enjoys camping, fishing on the lake, playing cards, and country dancing. He loves customizing his old pickup trucks.

Tom likes Rodney Dangerfield in the movie "Back to School." Tom feels like Rodney Dangerfield. Tom was a structural steelworker for twenty-two years. He worked hard for twenty-two years. He had to work many hours. Tom tells people that the world is a tough place to live in if you don't have an education.

Tom tells students that it is hard to get a job without a degree.

*He worked his way up to better jobs in the company. He became a fitter, a welder, then a layout man.*

## Barbara M. Clayton Norton Hinds Community College

*Barbara liked college because it helped her feel good about herself.*



Barbara Norton lives in Gulfport, Mississippi. She was born deaf. Barbara went to a public high school. After high school, she enrolled as a full-time student at Hinds Community College (HCC). Barbara studied microcomputer

information processing. She graduated in 1991.

During college, Barbara was a student worker in the Business Technology Department. She was a member of the Deaf Club, Phi Beta Gamma and the Catholic Organization. Barbara liked college because it helped her feel good about herself. At HCC they had great interpreters, tutors and note takers. They made it easy to learn.

After college, Barbara needed a job. The Job Club and Vocational Rehabilitation helped her find a job at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. She works as an office automation clerk. Barbara works with computers, orders supplies, and does filing.

Barbara's hobbies are swimming and walking her cocker spaniel. She is married to Richard Morton, Jr. In the future, they want to buy a house and raise a family.

Barbara's advice to deaf students is college is like a job. Work hard and enjoy it. When you graduate you will miss college.

## Selby Parker Hinds Community College

Selby Parker lives in Clinton, Mississippi. He was born deaf. Selby went to the Mississippi School for the Deaf.

Selby likes drawing houses. He decided to attend Hinds Community College (HCC) from 1990 to 1993 and study drafting. Selby liked going to HCC because they have excellent interpreters and tutors.

Selby works at Refro Flex located in Raymond, Mississippi. Selby works as a printer. He runs the Flex Graphic machines and prints information. Refro Flex has four deaf employees. One of these employees told Selby about the job.

Selby was vice-president of the Hinds Community College Deaf Club. He likes going out with his girlfriend and visiting friends. He also enjoys judo and football. Selby drives a 1993 silver Mustang.

Selby plans to get married next summer. He met his fiancée at HCC. In the future, he wants to buy a new home. He likes his job and wants to keep working at Refro Flex.

Selby tells students to go to class and study hard.



*Selby was vice-president of the Hinds Community College Deaf Club.*

## Tina Patten Hinds Community College

Tina Patten was born deaf. She went to the Louisiana School for the Deaf. While going to school, Tina worked in the school office. After high school, she went to Hinds Community College. Tina was a full-time student from 1989 to 1991. Tina decided to study business technology.

Tina liked Hinds Community College (HCC). The college had good support services that help you in the classroom. Tina liked to be with other deaf students at college. She chose HCC because it has a deaf program and it is close to home.

Tina works for Riverland Medical Center. She is the assistant insurance clerk. Tina operates computers and files insurance claims. In November 1993, she was the Employee of the Month. Tina does excellent work. She is cooperative and friendly.

Tina plans to marry in February 1995. She will marry her high school sweetheart. He also graduated from HCC.

Tina's hobbies are volleyball, basketball, and visiting with deaf friends.

Tina tells students to study hard, pay attention in class, and join the Deaf Club.

*Tina tells students to study hard, pay attention in class, and join the Deaf Club.*



## Dana Pugh Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus



Dana Pugh lives in Louisville, Kentucky. She was born deaf. She attended DuPont Manual High School. After high school, she went to the Mill Creek Vocational Technical Center. She studied commercial sewing.

She presently works at Morrison's Cafeteria as a pie maker. She makes pies and cuts them to be served on the line.

Dana attended Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech) from 1991 to 1994. She majored in food technology. She picked this field because she likes to cook. In the future, Dana wants to become a chef. She said that KY-Tech had good interpreters.

Dana urges deaf students to continue with their education. She tells students that reading is very important.

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*In the future, Dana wants to become a chef.*

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## Judith Ritenour Central Piedmont Community College

Judith Ritenour lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is profoundly deaf. She attended public school until she was in the 8th grade. In 1969, she went to the North Carolina School for the Deaf. She graduated in 1972.

Judith liked high school. She learned sign language, was a cheerleader, class president, and an honor student. She volunteered at the Western Carolina Center helping mentally challenged adults. After graduation, Judith traveled to Ireland and Scotland.

Vocational Rehabilitation helped her get a job at the First Union Bank. She started as an encoder and soon became the senior encoder operator. In 1991 she became a teller specialist. Judith now supervises other bank tellers. She assists with paperwork, printing statements, and closing accounts.

Judith attended Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). She liked the classes in computers and career exploration. The interpreting and support services were very good. Also the teachers were helpful and encouraged the students. This made learning more positive and beneficial. CPCC was near Judith's home and was not an expensive college. It had a lot of different programs to choose from.

*Judith now  
supervises other  
bank tellers.*



Judith enjoys reading, gardening, water skiing, camping, and traveling. She has a dog named Bear and a cat named Shadoe. Someday, Judith would like to sail around the world and see the Great Wall of China. Her advice to students is to always believe in yourself. If the door is shut, open it.



## Karl Frederick Roberts Central Piedmont Community College

Karl Roberts was born in the United Kingdom. He was born deaf. Karl's grandparents and uncle are deaf also. Karl went to elementary school in South Wales. Then he went to the School for the Partially Hearing. He graduated from high school in 1986.

Karl's mother is from the United States. He and his family moved to Charlotte, North Carolina. He went to Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). Karl was a full-time student in the welding program. Karl made the dean's list; this means he made very good grades. Karl also became a member of an honor society. He graduated from CPCC in 1993.

Karl liked CPCC. He learned sign language and met many deaf friends. The teachers at CPCC were very helpful. They made the lessons easy to understand.

Karl needed to find a job. One of the teachers at CPCC told a company about Karl's good grades. Reeves Sheetmetal Company hired Karl as a welder. He welds air conditioning ducts, surgery tables, waste containers, and computer panels. Karl likes his job. Welders make a lot of money. Welding is good to study because many companies need welders.

Karl liked the clubs at CPCC. He was a member of the Martial Arts Club. He earned his third level belt. He also enjoys playing volleyball, badminton, and basketball. Karl's hobbies are weight lifting and fixing old bikes. He also likes hiking, camping, and reading.

In the future, Karl wants to go back to college. He wants to become a nutrition counselor and help people eat healthy foods and exercise. Karl met his wife at CPCC. Her name is Dorothy and she is hearing. She is a welder, too. They were married in December, 1994.

Karl tells deaf students to graduate from high school and go to college. You can get a good job when you graduate from college. If you like your work, you will succeed.



*If you like your work,  
you will succeed.*



*Patrick received two scholarships to help pay for college. He got the scholarships because he made good grades.*

## Patrick Robinson Jacksonville State University

Patrick Robinson was born in Prattville, Alabama. He went to public schools then transferred to the Alabama School for the Deaf. During school he played football, basketball, and ran track. He was the president of many different school activities. Patrick received two scholarships to help pay for college. He got the scholarships because he made good grades.

Patrick went to Gallaudet University. He worked as a student coach and scorekeeper for the women's basketball team. He was involved in student government, student fellowships, and a fraternity. He received several awards while at Gallaudet. In 1991, Patrick graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and communication arts. During college, he met his wife, Marvice Pack. She is deaf and was in the Deaf Olympics twice.

Patrick also attended Jacksonville State University (JSU) as a part-time student. He liked JSU because they had good interpreters and note takers. For the last two summers, Patrick has attended Western Maryland University. He is working on his master's degree in deaf education.

Patrick and his wife live in Talladega, Alabama. He works as an adjustment specialist at the Alabama School for the Deaf. Most of his time is spent working with students and the deaf community.

Patrick's advice to deaf students for success is: be responsible and mature, have self-pride and respect, and be self-motivated.

## Pacifico Santiago Spartanburg Technical College

Pacifico Santiago became deaf when he was one year old. He had fluid in his ears.

Pacifico lived in Goose Creek, South Carolina. He went to North Charleston High School and graduated in 1989. In 1990, he moved into the dorms at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB). He began to take classes in computer operations. Pacifico was frustrated with his first year of classes. The work was hard. He decided to study welding.

Pacifico made good grades in welding. He was in the state welding competition two times. Both times he placed second in the competition. Pacifico enjoyed welding.

When Pacifico was in school he had two jobs. The



first job was a substitute supervisor in the dorms at the SCSDB. The other job was working part-time in admissions at Spartanburg Technical College (STC).

Pacifico needed a better job. His teacher told him about a welding job. Pacifico got the job as a welder. He worked for Sanders Brothers in Gaffney, South Carolina. He

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*Pacifico liked getting a degree from STC. The staff helped him to reach his goal.*

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moved from the dorms at SCSDB to his own apartment.

Pacifico finished his welding classes. He decided to get a college degree. He went to school at night and worked hard. Pacifico graduated from STC in 1993. He got a new job at BODE Industries in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Pacifico's supervisor is Kevin Belue. Kevin is taking sign language classes at STC. He wants to talk with Pacifico. Kevin says he has had good experiences with people who are deaf. He says that deaf people want to be treated like everybody else. In many ways people who are deaf are stronger and more aggressive. Kevin enjoys working with Pacifico. They are good friends.

Pacifico plans to marry a student from STC next year. Pacifico and his fiancée want to save money for a home.

Pacifico enjoys bowling and fishing. He also likes playing volleyball and softball and driving go-karts.

Pacifico liked getting a degree from STC. The staff helped him to reach his goal. The Cooperative Program for the Deaf and Blind was very helpful. The teachers were very supportive. The club activities, tutoring department, and interpreters are great.

Pacifico's picture is on the cover of the STC catalog and registration booklet. His picture is on billboards for STC.

Pacifico tells students to study hard and have a good attitude.

## Thomas Sebhat DeKalb College

Thomas Sebhat was born in Ethiopia but now lives in Atlanta, Georgia. He was born hard of hearing.

He went to Charleston High School and graduated in 1992. He decided to attend DeKalb College because it is near his home and is inexpensive. His major is computer science. He is taking developmental English classes to improve his writing and language skills.

Thomas says that DeKalb College has helpful counselors, interpreters and note takers. These are the reasons that he is attending DeKalb before going to another university.

Thomas advises deaf students to never give up. There are many career choices for the deaf. He tells students that they can be number one.

*Thomas advises deaf students to never give up. There are many career choices for the deaf.*



*She likes acting and writing and wants to be an actress or a journalist.*

## Jessica Sherry DeKalb College



Jessica Sherry became deaf at 18 months old. She attended the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf then went to Briarlake Elementary School in the fifth grade. Jessica attended Clarkston High School from 8th grade until graduation.

Jessica is a full-time student at DeKalb College. She has not decided on her major. She likes acting and writing and wants to be an actress or a journalist.

Jessica likes DeKalb College. She can take classes that she needs and it is easy. She chose DeKalb College because it is a two-year college and it is close to her home.

Jessica likes going to malls, movies, and other places with her friends or with her mom. She drives a gray Volvo that her mother gave her. In the future, Jessica wants a big house and four children.

Jessica wants to encourage high school deaf students to try the program at DeKalb College because the program can help them have a good career. Jessica's advice to students is to never give up.

## Shawn Shockency Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

Shawn Shockency lives in Louisville, Kentucky. When he was two and one-half years old he had spinal meningitis. This left him totally deaf. He is the only deaf person in his family. His parents sent him to public schools with hearing children.

In 1992, he went to Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech). He started as a full-time student in accounting. Now, he is a part-time student. Shawn has done very well in school. He says the school has very good teachers and interpreters.

The career placement specialist at KY-Tech was able to help Shawn get a co-op job with United Parcel Service (UPS). He worked as an audit clerk in packaging. Shawn was promoted to the Accounting Department



with UPS. He works with computers and time cards. He is also responsible for reports. This is a full-time job with full-time benefits and the money is good.

Shawn is saving his money to buy a new car. He drives a white Chevette and it is

old. Shawn enjoys accounting and talking with his friends. In the future, Shawn hopes to get married, buy a car, and raise a family.

He advises deaf students to finish college and work hard to have a great future.

*Shawn was promoted to the Accounting Department with UPS. He works with computers and time cards.*





*Deaf college students should be good role models for future young deaf people.*

## Sally Ann Shortz St. Petersburg Junior College

Sally Shortz lives in Largo, Florida. She was born deaf. She went to the Indiana School for the Deaf and graduated in 1984. She likes to study accounting. She went to St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) from 1986 to 1990. Sally graduated in 1990. She was treasurer of the Deaf Club for one year. Sally was given an award in 1987 and 1990. The name of the award is "The Most Conscientious Student."

Sally likes attending SPJC. They had good interpreters, note takers, and tutors. The college wants deaf students to find jobs and to succeed.

Sally works at the Deaf Service Center in Pinellas Park, Florida. She is a bookkeeper. Sally found her job from a bulletin at the Deaf Service Center. She gathers information for payroll and issues paychecks. Sally works with accounts payable and accounts receivable. She also contacts interpreters and helps with bank deposits. Sally's goal is to work in administration.

Sally likes to teach American Sign Language classes. She likes to travel, watch college basketball and spend time with her friends. She is a member of the Greater Tampa Bay Association of the Deaf. She served on the ticket committee for the National Softball Association for the Deaf in 1993.

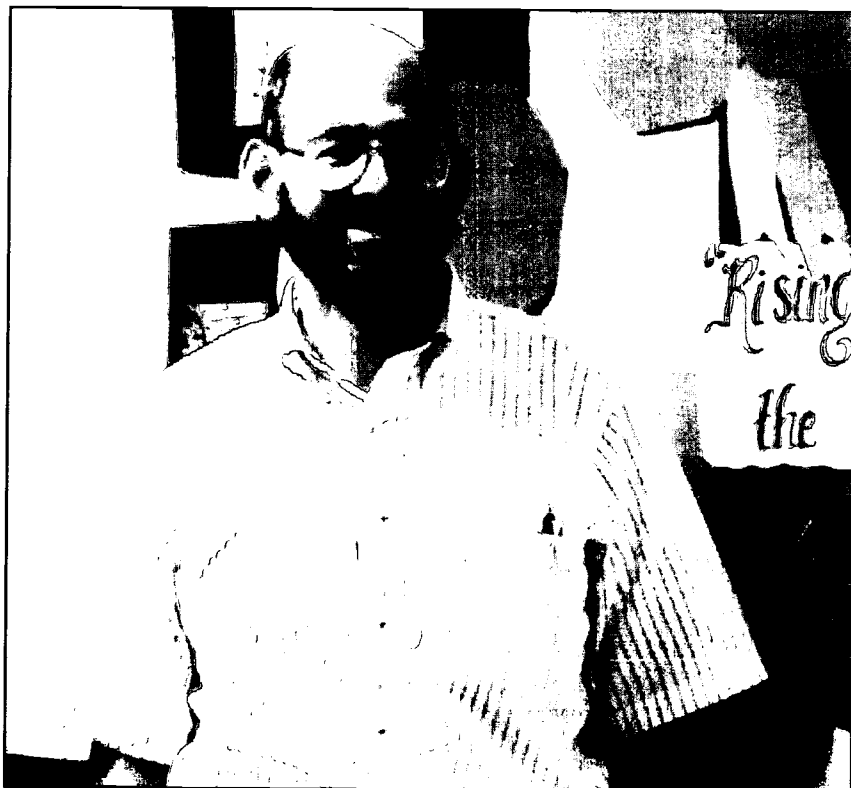
Sally wants everyone to join the Deaf Community. Sally wants deaf high school students to go to college and get degrees. This will help them get good jobs. Deaf college students should be good role models for future young deaf people.

## Joel Silberstein Spartanburg Technical College

Joel Silberstein graduated from the New York School for the Deaf. He went to college at Gallaudet University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1970. He received a master's degree in education from Western Maryland College in 1976.

Joel enrolled in an industry and business training course in order to renew his teaching certification. He is now a math teacher at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind. Joel enrolled in an industry and business training course in August of 1993. The course was at Spartanburg Technical College (STC).

Joel loved college. His favorite thing about college was the interpreting services. He urges deaf students to go to college to improve their academic and employment skills.



*Joel enrolled in an industry and business training course . . . to renew his teaching certification.*

## Marcus Slaughter DeKalb College

Marcus Slaughter's hearing loss was discovered when he was four. He always attended public schools. Marcus was the only deaf child throughout school. He never had the luxury of an interpreter.

Marcus attended DeKalb College from 1991 to 1994. He picked this college because interpreters and note takers were provided. He majored in business administration. He believes that he could be a good, honest businessman.

Marcus urges deaf students to believe in themselves even when others do not. He also urges them to try their best. He feels that setbacks and failures are part of life. Marcus tells students that success in life is rewarding and refreshing.

*Marcus urges deaf students to believe in themselves even when others do not.*



## Michael Spivey Hinds Community College



Michael Spivey lives in Gulfport, Mississippi. When he was three years old, he got a high fever. Then he became deaf. Michael graduated from Biloxi High School.

A deaf friend told Michael about a job. Michael got the job. He works at the Veterans Administration in Biloxi, Mississippi. Michael

began to work as a printer at the Veterans Hospital six years ago. Different departments in the hospital request documents and forms. Michael prints these documents and forms.

Michael graduated from Hinds Community College (HCC) in 1979. His major was graphic arts/printing. He liked this program. They had good support services and interpreters. Michael is a President's Scholar with a 4.0 grade point average. He is a Deaf Club member, too.

Michael got married in February, 1994. He has two jobs. One of his jobs is at the Veterans Hospital. The second job is at a casino. He works at an oyster bar in the casino. He is saving his money so he can buy a house next year. Michael likes to be with his family and help his friends.

Michael tells deaf students to pay attention in class, study, and ignore friends who party when you are trying to study.

*Michael tells deaf students to pay attention in class, study, and ignore friends who party when you are trying to study.*

## Darrell Stephens Spartanburg Technical College

Darrell Stephens is hard of hearing and visually impaired. When he was 12 years old he had a brain tumor. He lost some of his hearing and vision. Darrell uses a closed circuit TV. Large print computer software makes the words big on the TV. The big words are easier to see. He also reads Braille.

Darrell was an office assistant. He worked in the president's office at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind. Darrell wanted an entry-level job in management. He wanted to work for a company in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Darrell decided to go to Spartanburg Technical College (STC). Darrell began college classes in 1991. Darrell is going to college and working part-time. He wants an Associate of Science degree. Darrell will graduate in May 1995. He will have a degree in business management.

Darrell enjoys going to STC. The teachers are friendly and helpful. He likes the support services and the staff in the Cooperative Program.

Darrell likes weight lifting, eating and talking with women.

He tells students to work hard for what they want.

*Darrell is going to college and working part-time. He wants an Associate of Science degree.*



## Mark A. Suffridge St. Petersburg Junior College

Mark A. Suffridge is 41 years old. He was born deaf. He has a deaf sister. Mark attended special education classes for the deaf in a public school. In elementary and high school, signing was not permitted. The Cincinnati Board of Education preferred oralism. Mark graduated from Withcow High School. He was in the top ten in his graduating class.



Mark was a full-time student at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, New York from 1972 to 1978. He majored in art and really enjoyed environmental design. Mark made good grades and was on the honor's list six times. He was a resident advisor in his dormitory. During college, his art work was displayed in different art shows.

Mark also studied drama at NTID. He was the lead actor in two plays. One play was *Lysistrata* and the other was *The Wall*. He graduated from NTID with a bachelor's degree in art. Mark had interpreters, note takers and counselors in his classes at NTID.

When Mark graduated, he got a job. He worked for Ford Motor Company Design Center in Dearborn, Michigan. He met his wife there and got married. Mark and his wife have three children now.

Mark moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. He worked for the Martin Marietta Corporation for 13 years. He moved to Florida after losing his job in December 1993. Now he is attending St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC).

*He wants to work with deaf students in the future. Mark wants to get his master's degree in art or social work.*

He is taking computer classes at SPJC. This will help Mark find another job. At SPJC, Mark has good interpreters, note takers, and counselors.

Mark likes to read. His favorite books are "Star Trek" novels and mystery novels. He collects German beer steins and coins. Mark owns a 1995 green Plymouth Neon. He wants to work with deaf students in the future. Mark wants to get his master's degree in art or social work.

Mark believes that it is important for deaf high school students to be educated and to go to college. It is very hard to find a good paying job if you don't go to college.



## Gwendolyn R. Ward New River Community College

Gwendolyn R. Ward is 58 years old. She began to lose her hearing when she was 14 years old. She had bad colds and got infections in her ears. Her hearing decreased as she got older. Now Gwendolyn uses hearing aids. She uses her hearing aids in class or in large groups.

Gwendolyn graduated from high school in 1955. She was the vice-president of her class. She went to business school in 1956. At business school, she took classes in general business. Gwendolyn is now attending New River Community College (NRCC).

Gwendolyn was a part-time student at NRCC from 1991 to 1994. She received a word processing certificate in 1994. Now Gwendolyn is taking more classes.

Gwendolyn didn't participate in many of the activities at NRCC. However, she was active in her community. She participated in the church choir, high school band activities, and volunteered at the library. She was also a member of the Floyd County Lioness Club and a volunteer teacher's aide in the public

*Gwendolyn decided to go back to school because she wanted more job skills.*



schools. Gwendolyn received the Student of the Year Award from the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in 1994. She had a 3.7 Grade Point Average.

Gwendolyn says the most helpful services at NRCC are the note takers and tutors. The computer courses provide hands-on training. Gwendolyn chose the word processing program because she was interested in office administration duties. This program gave Gwendolyn business office skills.

Gwendolyn doesn't have a full-time job yet. She works for four temporary agencies. They send her to different jobs that require different duties. She does data entry, word processing, filing and runs errands. Gwendolyn likes data entry and filing because she doesn't have to answer telephones or help customers.

Gwendolyn likes to sew and read. Her favorite author is James A. Michener. She and her husband belong to three dance clubs. They like ballroom dancing, square dancing, and round dancing. Gwendolyn has two cars. One car is a Plymouth Sundance and the other is a Dodge Colt. She likes the Dodge Colt best. She has three children, one girl and two boys.

Gwendolyn says not to be afraid to continue your education. She thinks that hearing impaired students get a lot of help from community colleges. Interpreters, note takers and tutors help hearing impaired students. Deaf students make friends with hearing students at community colleges. Some deaf students are in clubs at community colleges.

Gwendolyn decided to go back to school because she wanted more job skills. These skills would help her find a job. Going back to school helped her gain self-confidence. Now she knows she can do any job.

## Vernada D. Whiteside Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus

Vernada Whiteside lives in Louisville, Kentucky. She became deaf when she was six years old. The doctors don't know why she lost her hearing.

Vernada went to Myers Middle School and to Seneca High School. Vernada went to Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus (KY-Tech) from 1989 to 1992. She was a full-time student. She studied commercial foods. Vernada graduated from KY Tech in 1992.

Vernada needed a job. The Career Placement Office at KY- Tech told Vernada about a job at Morrison's Cafeteria. Vernada works there making bread from scratch. Vernada loves her job.

Vernada is a great bread maker. Everyone says that her breads taste great. Vernada also enjoys making pies. Making pies is her specialty.

Vernada likes the program at KY-Tech. They have great interpreters. It was a wonderful experience for Vernada. She likes to visit with the deaf students at KY-Tech.

Vernada enjoys dancing. She goes to a dance club every Friday. The name of the dance club is the Polyonna. She learns new dances.

Vernada wants a new car. In the future she wants to buy a house. She is renting a house now. Vernada has two children. Her daughter is 13 years old and her son is 16 months old.

Vernada tells students to go to a vocational school or college. School can help you get a good job. Deaf students should get an interpreter and be involved in classes.



*School can help you  
get a good job. Deaf  
students should get  
an interpreter and be  
involved in classes.*

## Heather Whitestone Jacksonville State University



Heather Whitestone became Miss America on September 18, 1994. She travels around the nation telling people that "Anything is Possible" if you work hard.

Heather lost her hearing when she was 18 months old. She had a severe-profound hearing loss. Heather went to a public school until the fourth grade. Then she was sent to an oral school in St. Louis, Missouri. She returned home when she was fourteen years old. Heather studied dance at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. Her junior and senior years were finished in a public high school.

Although Heather had a disability, she was successful. She knew having a dream and a good support group are very important. She decided to attend Jacksonville State University. During college, she was the first runner-up for two years in the Miss Alabama Pageant. She did not become discouraged. Heather continued to follow her dreams.

She studies accounting at Jacksonville State. Since becoming Miss America 1995, she is taking a break from college. She will return to Jacksonville State to finish her education. A \$25,000 scholarship was given to Jacksonville State in Heather's honor.

As Miss America, she gets to do many exciting things. She travels 20,000 miles a month telling others to reach for their goals. She won \$35,000 in scholarships to help pay for her education. Heather advises students to:

- Have a positive attitude
- Believe in your dreams
- Be willing to work hard
- Face your obstacles
- Build a support team

## Christina Witcher DeKalb College

Christina Witcher is from Covington, Georgia. She was born with a hearing loss and started wearing hearing aids when she was three and a half years old. She attended public schools and graduated from Newton County High School in 1993. She now attends DeKalb College part-time. She is working on a degree in teacher education. After DeKalb, she wants to attend West Georgia or Georgia College to finish her degree.

She learned about the hearing impaired program at DeKalb College through a vocational rehabilitation counselor in high school. She is involved in the ACE Club at DeKalb College (Able to Communicate Effectively). This club educates members about hearing and deaf cultures. Christina is currently employed part-time at Baskin Robbins.

*She learned about the hearing impaired program at DeKalb College through a vocational rehabilitation counselor in high school.*



## Crystal Witcher DeKalb College

Crystal Witcher was born with a hearing loss. She has a twin sister who also has a hearing impairment. Their parents discovered they were hard of hearing when they were three years old. Crystal now wears binaural hearing aids.

Crystal attended public school in Covington, Georgia and graduated from Newton County High School in 1993. At graduation Crystal and her sister performed a song in sign language. Crystal played the flute in the marching band and concert band for eight years.

Now Crystal is a full-time student at DeKalb College. She is very happy with this college. The college has services for the deaf and hard of hearing students. She meets many different people and likes the friendly atmosphere at DeKalb. Crystal wants to major in education of the hearing impaired. She believes in achieving her goals.

Crystal likes to play her flute and visit with friends during her free time. On the weekends, Crystal works at a FHA/FFA (Future Homemakers of America/ Future Farmers of America) camp.

*She meets many different people and likes the friendly atmosphere at DeKalb.*



# Postsecondary Education Consortium

## **PEC Central Office**

### **The University of Tennessee**

115 Claxton Addition  
Knoxville, TN 37996-3400

615/974-8427 (V/TDD)  
615/974-3522 FAX

William E. Woodrick, Director  
Donnell H. Ashmore, Associate Director  
Marcia Kolvitz, In-service Coordinator

### **PEC Resource Materials Center**

Spartanburg Technical College  
Bonnie Martin, Coordinator  
P.O. Drawer 4386  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4386

803/591-3636 (V/TDD)  
803/591-3642 FAX

### **Central Piedmont Community College**

Services to Hearing Impaired Students  
Costas Boukouvalas, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 35009  
Charlotte, NC 28235-6421

704/342-6421 (V/TDD)  
704/342-6888 Mel Gay  
704/342-5045 (Terrell 508)

### **Chattanooga State**

#### **Technical Community College**

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program  
Roger Ellinger, Coordinator  
4501 Amnicola Highway  
Chattanooga, TN 37406-1097

615/697-4452 (V/TDD)  
615/697-4421 Betty Soward  
615/697-4709 FAX

### **DeKalb College**

Center for Disability Services  
Theresa Johnson-Sligar, Coordinator  
555 North Indian Creek Drive  
Clarkston, GA 30021

404/299-4038 (V/TDD)  
404/299-4561 Jerry Wright  
404/298-3830 FAX

### **Hinds Community College**

Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Carol Kelley, Coordinator  
Box 1282  
Raymond, MS 39154-0999

601/857-3310 (V/TDD)  
601/857-3237 David Durham  
601/857-3392 FAX

## **Jacksonville State University**

Office of Disabled Student Services  
Dan Miller, Coordinator  
139 Daugette Hall  
Jacksonville, AL 36265

205/782-5093 (V/TDD)  
205/782-5005 Bascom Woodward  
205/782-5983 FAX

### **Kentucky Tech-Jefferson Campus**

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program  
Vicki Brashear, Coordinator  
727 West Chestnut Street  
Louisville, KY 40203

502/595-4221 (V/TDD)  
502/595-4136 Randy Clark  
502/595-4399 FAX

### **New River Community College**

Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Lucy Howlett, Coordinator  
Drawer 1127  
Dublin, VA 24084

703/674-3619 (V/TDD)  
703/674-3623 Douglas Warren  
703/674-3634 FAX

### **St. Petersburg Junior College**

Program for the Deaf  
Harriett Clark, Coordinator  
2465 Drew Street  
Clearwater, FL 34625  
813/791-2631 (V/TDD)  
813/791-2492 (V/TDD) Dave Walthall  
813/791-2638 FAX

### **Spartanburg Technical College**

Cooperative Program for the Sensory Impaired  
Barbara Garrison, Coordinator  
P.O. Drawer 4386  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4386

South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind  
355 Cedar Spring Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29302

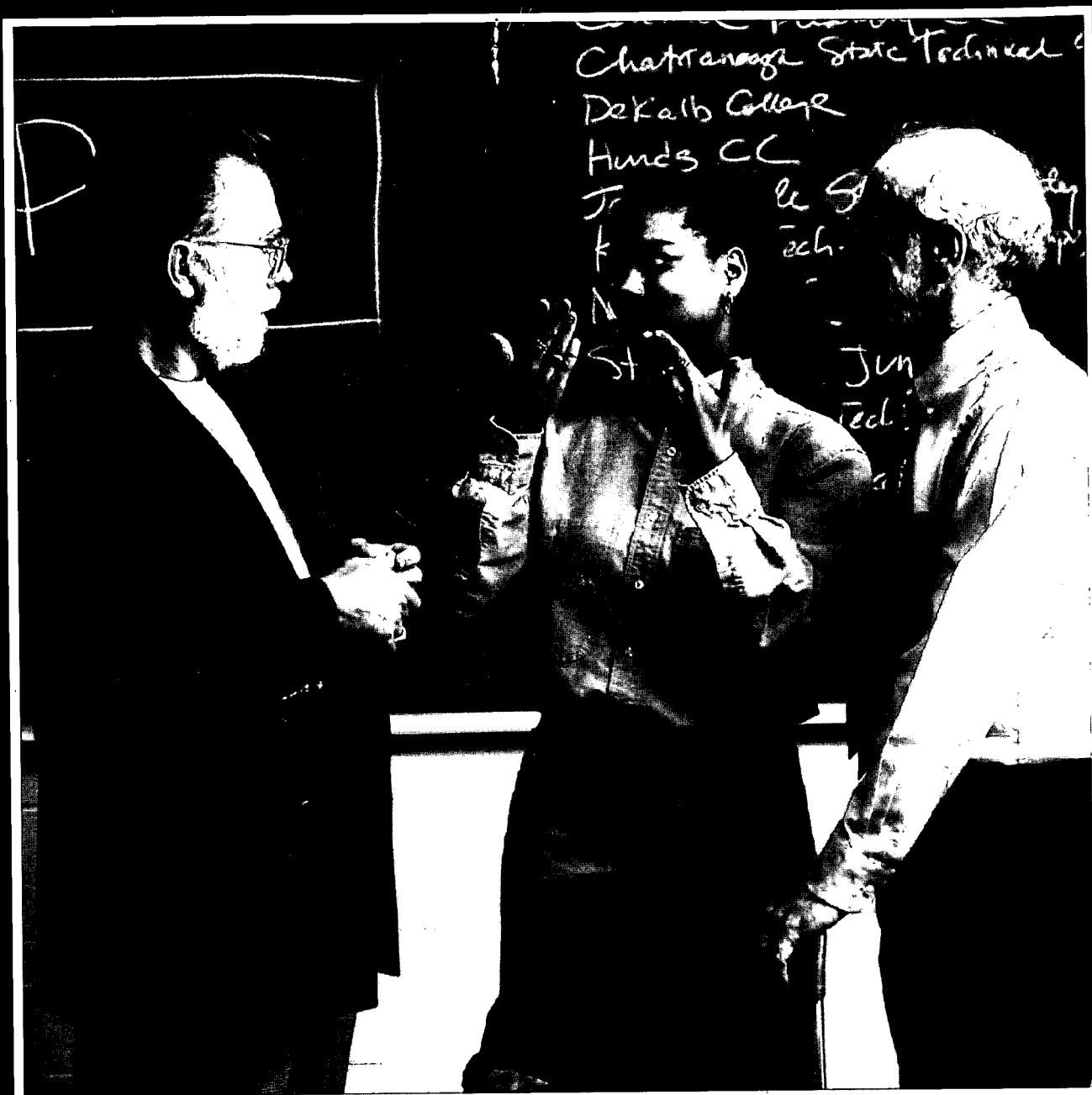
803/591-3811 (V/TDD)  
803/591-3817 Harold McClain  
803/594-3295 Mario Insabella  
803/591-3642 FAX-STC  
803/585-3555 FAX-SCSDB

### **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

Disability Support Services  
Susan Queller, Coordinator  
2801 S. University  
Little Rock, AR 72204-1099

501/569-3143 (V/TDD)  
501/569-3328 Charles Donaldson  
501/569-8068 FAX





(left to right) Donnell H. Ashmore, PEC Associate Director; Chiquita Simmons, UTK transfer student from Hinds Community College; and William E. Woodrick, PEC Director





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